

3-25-2010

Daily Eastern News: March 25, 2010

Eastern Illinois University

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Recommended Citation

Eastern Illinois University, "Daily Eastern News: March 25, 2010" (2010). *March*. 14.
http://thekeep.eiu.edu/den_2010_mar/14

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Supreme court
decision favors student

Page 3



Softball scores big
in home opener

Page 12

UNIVERSITY

Perry
asks for
student fee
increase

Plans underway for
building renovations

By Jenna Mitchell
Staff Reporter

President Bill Perry addressed the student senate at Wednesday’s meeting regarding a proposal to increase the campus improvement fee.

The proposal is a way to build up funding to renovate the Physical Science and Biological Science buildings, which were built in the early and mid-1990s.

A meeting will take place in April and if approved, an increase will begin in the fall semester.

There is currently a \$12 student fee for campus improvement that has gone toward the new textbook rental facility and newly relocated steam plant.

Perry said that renovations are imperative when it comes to the image of the school and the appeal to potential new students.

“Buildings do make a difference when people come to look at the school,” Perry said.

GOVERNMENT, page 7

CITY

Two vehicles
strike Eastern
student
Saturday

By Heather Holm
Activities Editor

Alex Fitzjarrald, a senior geology major from Tuscola, jumped in front of traffic around 11 p.m. Saturday and was hit by two cars on Lincoln Avenue.

A Toyota truck, driven by Jason Wishard, and a Mercury Mystique GS, driven by Ashley Evans, hit him.

Wishard was the first to hit Fitzjarrald.

After he was hit, the victim asked Wishard for a gun, so he could shoot himself, the police report said.

Fitzjarrald ran from the scene after being hit by Wishard’s truck before police arrived at the scene, and then he ran head first in front of Evans’ car, getting struck again.

The report said the second collision tossed Fitzjarrald into the air and onto the curb.

Fitzjarrald was then transported to Sarah Bush Lincoln Heath Center and later life-lined to Carle Foundation Hospital in Champaign.

There was no sign that the victim was intoxicated during the incident.

“He wasn’t driving, so there was no legal basis for forcing a blood urine test,” Charleston Police Chief Bryan Baker said.

ACCIDENT, page 7

CITY

Students displaced by fire

Damages to
rental house
estimated at \$50k

By Jason Hardimon
Campus Editor

It could have been worse.

That is how the residents of 956 Polk Ave. felt a day after a fire caught them by surprise. They said they are thankful no one was injured and are ready to move on with their lives.

Unfortunately, they will have to do so from a different location.

Fire Chief Pat Goodwin said damages to the rental house, which will not be habitable for the remainder of the semester, were estimated at \$50,000.

Connor Walsh, a political science and international studies major and Mikel Storm, a management information systems major, are two of the three former residents.

Dan Nadler, vice president for student affairs, said his staff has been in contact with both of the Eastern students and were also on the scene Tuesday to provide support.

“Our overall goal is to help provide short- and long-term relief to Connor and Mikel,” Nadler said, “This could include providing temporary housing, meals and the like. Students often need textbooks, clothing, school supplies, Panther Cards and other (miscellaneous) items.”

The third resident was Conrad Widdersheim, a biology education major at Lake Land College, who plans to transfer to Eastern in the fall.

Widdersheim said a neighbor saw the first thing that caught fire was an “old busted TV” on the covered porch located along the house’s west side.

The fire then spread to the west wall, the porch roof and eventually engulfed a large portion of the house’s northwest corner.

Both Walsh and Storm, who were home at the time of the incident, were able to safely vacate the premises.

FIRE, page 7



KAROLINA STRACK | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Richard Edwards, assistant chief of the Charleston Fire Department, works to put out the house fire on Tuesday evening at 956 Polk Ave. The cause of the fire still remains unknown.

FUNDING

Paperwork adds more fuel to funding fire

By Sarah Ruholl
Administration Editor

Eastern is jumping through bookkeeping hoops in order to get some much-needed cash flow.

The university will receive just under \$3 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Only “positive time reporting” employees, or those who fill out time cards, are eligible for re-

imbursement under the act.

Most of Eastern’s employees do not fall into this category.

The stimulus money will cover about 30 percent of a month’s expenses, said treasurer Paul McCann. To date, Eastern has received only \$17.5 million of its \$50.6 million appropriation from the state of Illinois.

McCann said all of Illinois’ public universities want to get the in-

formation ready by the end of March, but Eastern’s yearly positive time reporting payroll will not amount to \$3 million until April.

“The stimulus money requires that we provide them with a lot of detailed information about what and who we spent the money on, why we spent it, what they were doing, how much time they were doing it,” McCann said. “So we are in the process of pulling all of that

information together.”

Eastern must submit detailed information on hourly employees including name, department, position, hours worked and the percent of their yearly pay it represents.

McCann is working on moving some hourly employees who have already been used to request state funding. Eastern will be able to go back to January 1 to pull down

FUNDING, page 7

WEATHER TODAY



Rain Showers

HIGH
52°

LOW
30°

Scattered showers are anticipated to last through the evening; clearing up as we head into the night. Winds could gust near 20mph later tonight as well. The sun returns as we head into the weekend, and temperatures begin to warm up. However, more showers are possible on Sunday.

WEATHER TOMORROW



Friday
Mostly Sunny
High: 49°
Low: 34°



Saturday
Mostly Sunny
High: 56°
Low: 44°

For more weather information: www.eiu.edu/~weather

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Observatory open to view moon, planets

The observatory, located southwest of the Campus Pond, will have an open house at 8 p.m. Friday. The observatory houses a state-of-the-art 16-inch Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope. A map is available at www.eiu.edu/~physics/campusmap.pdf.

Mock interview workshop today

Students will be able to practice their interviewing skills at a mock interview workshop at 9 a.m. today at Career Services, located inside the Human Services Center. Appointments are required, and can be made by calling 581-2412.

Weekly JUMA prayer meeting Friday

Non-Muslim students and faculty are welcome to bring their classes for an observation of JUMA's weekly prayer at 1 p.m. Friday at the Cultural Center, located at 1525 Seventh St. It is a congregational prayer. Because of limited space, prior notification is requested. For more information, contact Shaukat Sheikh at (917)720-4047 or smsheikh@eiu.edu.

—Compiled by Associate News Editor
Sarah Jean Bresnahan and
Editor in Chief Tyler Angelo

Frolicking in Frisbee fun



KAROLINA STRACK | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Mariah Layman, a freshman elementary education major, attempts to stop Jacob Swanson, a freshman philosophy major, during a friendly game of frisbee on Wednesday afternoon in the South Quad.

DENNEWS.COM



Advantages of driving green

Online Reporter Kyle Pruden offers a few details about hybrid cars and why they are good for the environment, but might be impossible for college students. Read more of his going green blog at DENnews.com.

BLOTTER

It was reported that a battery occurred Wednesday at Thomas Hall. The incident was referred to the Office of Student Standards, the University Police Department said.

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Printed by Eastern Illinois University on soy ink and recycled paper.

Attention postmaster
Send address changes to:
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Eastern Illinois University
Charleston, IL 61920

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The Daily Eastern News is produced by the students of Eastern Illinois University. It is published daily Monday through Friday, in Charleston, Ill., during fall and spring semesters and twice weekly during the summer term except during university vacations or examinations. One copy per day is free to students and faculty. Additional copies can be obtained for 50 cents each in the Student Publications Office in Buzzard Hall. *The Daily Eastern News* is a member of *The Associated Press*, which is entitled to exclusive use of all articles appearing in this publication.

Subscription:
\$50 per semester,
\$30 for summer, & \$95 year.

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1811 Buzzard Hall
Periodical postage paid at Charleston, IL 61920
ISSN 0894-1599

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. UNIVERSITY UNION

Student court rule favors student

By Erica Whelan
Student Government Editor

Freshman Toni Porter appealed to the student supreme court on the grounds that she was unfairly terminated from her position as the freshman representative of the Black Student Union.

The court ultimately ruled in her favor by a vote of five with one abstention from justice Eric Baker, who removed himself from the hearing to avoid a conflict of interests as he serves as the director of internal affairs for BSU.

Porter testified that she was appointed to the newly-formed special committee on Aug. 31 by DeMarlon Brown, president of BSU after initially interviewing for the director of internal affairs position.

As the appointed freshman representative, her responsibilities included greeting new students and promoting the organization, as well as planning events that would appeal to the freshman population and represent the messages expressed by BSU.

Porter said that while serving on the BSU from August to January, she was never once presented with guidelines or stipulations for carrying out and keeping her position.

Porter was dismissed from her duties via e-mail on January 11 by BSU adviser Dana Barnard.

Porter attributed her dismissal to an incident that occurred during a BSU executive board meeting on Nov. 5.

She told justices she pitched an idea that received vocal criticism from fellow board members and resulted in what she deemed to be “unprofessional behavior” in the form of swearing and personal attacks.

She said that when she voiced her concerns about the alleged behavior, members of the executive board disagreed with her opinions and wished to remove her from her position.

“They’re used to being unprofessional and cursing,” Porter told the justices. “They weren’t used to people speaking up. I didn’t do anything wrong. The Constitution says I have a right to the freedom of speech.”

Porter and her parents, who also attended the hearing, subsequently met with Brown on Dec. 10 to discuss her term as the freshman representative to BSU.

“They told me I was going to go ahead and serve my full time and move forward with my position, but when I got back from winter break, I received an e-mail that said my position would be taken away because of my GPA,” Porter said.

Brown countered that Porter was not removed from her position because of the views she expressed and he said he pleads with members to speak their minds.

Rather, Brown said Porter failed to meet the GPA requirement for maintaining her position, which he set at 2.5 as opposed to the 2.3 required of all other BSU positions. Porter said she holds a 2.43 GPA.

“As a freshman, I believe academics should be a top priority,” Brown said.

The BSU constitution states that the president may appoint people to positions as deemed fit and may also establish guidelines as to earning and upholding their positions.

However, Porter said she was never presented with any guidelines.

Brown then procured a “freshman checklist” that he and Porter drafted together, which outlined the responsibilities she was to assume during her term, including meeting the 2.5 GPA requirement Brown suggested.

Justices ultimately ruled to disregard the higher requirement because they felt Porter was treated as an executive board member and believed she both voted and testified at meetings, thus she should be held to the same standards as executive members, including meeting the 2.3 GPA requirement.

Justice Artie Berns said the court felt that holding her to different standards than the other members violates the Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, which guarantees equal protection to all citizens.



CHELSEA GRADY | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Tamela Wilcoxon, a senior biology major and a member of the executive board of the Black Student Union, is a witness for the student supreme court hearing involving a BSU executive position. The hearing was Wednesday in the Oakland Room of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

They ruled that Porter be readmitted as the freshman representative of BSU immediately and encouraged the organization to provide materials such as the constitution, bylaws and job descriptions to members in a timely manner.

“Miss Porter was appointed as a de facto member of the executive board, and you can’t change the rules in the middle of her term,” Berns said.

He said that though Porter’s position is not expressed in the constitution as such, she was treated as a voting member and would be responsible for fulfilling the duties stated on the checklist, except for meeting the 2.5 GPA requirement.

Unsatisfied, Brown challenged the decision. “So, our ruling’s out of the water? So, we have no jurisdiction over our own organization?” he asked. “I will be sending every RSO to you guys, and I hope you rule the same. I’m just trying to tell you what you’re going to be dealing with.”

Brown said the final BSU executive board meeting will be held today, and he welcomed Porter to attend, though he told justices that dissatisfied members could possibly vote to impeach her by a two-thirds majority vote.

Despite this, Porter said she will be returning as the freshman representative and looks forward to carrying out her full term.

“I will continue to do what I’ve been doing,” she said. Brown said he views the ruling as a defeat for RSOs. “I hope the (student) supreme court is ready,” he said. “I hope every week, they reinstate a new person and ignore what they’d like to ignore. If I could go back and change one thing, it’d be: don’t put a freshman on the executive board.”

Erica Whelan can be reached at 581-7942 or elwhelan@eiu.edu.

DOUDNA FINE ARTS CENTER

Future of journalism uncertain

By Sam Sottosanto
Online Editor

Many journalism majors sat on the edge of their seats when four professional journalists told them that the journalism field is in trouble on Wednesday.

With newspapers cutting their staffs, fewer workers having to do more work and online media not providing as much revenue as journalists would like, the four journalists talked to students, faculty and the community about the future of journalism.

Jeffery Lynch, the dean for Arts and Humanities, hosted “The Future of Journalism” event. This is just one in a series of arts and humanities lectures.

“The future of journalism is strong,” Bryan Murley, the multimedia journalism professor at Eastern said. “The concern is how to pay for it.”

One problem the news industry is facing, Murley said, is that anyone can be a journalist, by writing his or her own blog or by using Facebook or Twitter to communicate news. More and more people are getting their news from these “citizen journalists” compared to news organizations.

Murley also said the newspaper audience is shrinking because people have so many other different outlets to choose from in getting their news—what with radio, television, the internet.

More traditional media, such as television or newspaper, is becoming more for the older audience.

“Not everyone reads the news,” Murley said. “The network 6 o’clock news, CBS evening news, your audience is shrinking because they’re all dying. They’re all getting old.”

Lynch, a smile creeping on his face, laughed at Murley’s comment.

“Yes, I watch it every night,” he joked. But then he followed up with a serious question. “Why do we want to go online?”

Will Sullivan, the interactive director at the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, said people are drawn to the internet because it is fast and it is immediate. It will appear in front of your eyes after the click of a button.

“I think life’s speeding up and the newspaper, by the time it’s printed, it’s a day old,” Sullivan from said.

Nancy Foreman, the executive producer of WCIA-TV 3 in Champaign Urbana, also believes that the internet is an important asset in journalism, especially to younger generations. They have a broadcast that airs online only at 7 p.m.

Many readers today are also more interested in gossip and celebrity news than what is serious, according to John Foreman, the publisher of the News-Gazette in Champaign-Urbana.

“People stop in their day to hear a golfer talk about how he wasn’t going to have affairs anymore,” he said. “There’s something wrong with the world when one guy standing up and says ‘aw I promise to be good next time’ is big news.”

Most Eastern journalism majors will graduate with an understanding that their field is in a transition. No one knows for sure what is going to happen to the industry and how financially the field will work out. But John Foreman said there is a bright side.

Journalism graduates do not cost as much as journalists who have been working for more than 25 years. And in an industry that is struggling with money, journalism graduates who are paid less will have an advantage.

“You don’t get into it to get rich,” Lynch said. “You do it because you love it.”

Sam Sottosanto can be reached at 581-7942 or dennews.com@gmail.com.

HEALTH

H1N1 survey a response to low vaccine turnout

By Erica Whelan
Student Government Editor

The Department of Health Studies is conducting a voluntary survey on student opinions about the H1N1 vaccine, which was offered for free at Lantz Arena in the fall.

Kathy Phillips, intern coordinator for the department, is among the panel of three professors and one student collecting data on students’ perceptions about the H1N1 immunization through the end of April.

Though the flu season can extend as late as May, Phillips said the department does not expect a re-emergence of the virus in the coming months, and, Health Service said no cases of the virus were reported on campus for the month of February.

Although the department does not currently perceive a significant cause for alarm, Phillips said she and her colleagues are interested in uncovering the reason why so few students chose not to take advantage of the flu clinic offered in November that provided free vaccinations.

“After reviewing the literature, we discovered that other universities experienced a lower-than-expected turnout of students,” Phillips said. “What we hope to find out is why students did not take the vaccine.”

Health Service reported that over the course of the school year 430 students contracted the H1N1 influenza virus.

A total of 1,725 vaccines were administered on campus in the fall.

An electronic survey was distributed to students through their Panthermail accounts on Monday that may lead to the development of educational intervention strategies.

The survey is estimated to take 10 to 12 minutes to complete and requests that students gauge their opinion on the validity of such statements as, “My chances of getting H1N1 are great,” and “H1N1 is a serious disease,” on a scale ranging from strong agreement to strong disagreement.

Erica Whelan can be reached at 581-7942 or elwhelan@eiu.edu

VIEWS



Julian Russell

Without trust, it all falls apart

Allow me to paint you a picture.

You're at your place of employment, working hard and at a responsible pace. Things slow down and you lean against the wall for a minute. The next thing you know, the owner is calling to tell you to quit "lounging" on the job.

I've heard a few stories like this over the years. But how can a business owner or manager be so vigilant that he swoops in — like a hawk descends upon a field mouse — at the slightest example of "laziness?"

It is all because of cameras within the workplace.

To me, if an owner has a camera in his place of business, it is because he is too lazy to do his job or doesn't trust the people he hired to supervise.

I personally haven't experienced anything like this but I can only imagine I would not handle being watched like a toddler very well.

In life, there exists a thing called "trust." In my view, if you give someone an inch of trust you'll receive a mile's worth of effort — usually. Happy work environments make for happy, hard-working employees.

I guess I find it a bit absurd that someone feels the need to sit at home and monitor his employees. It reminds me of my high school days all over again where teachers and principals have almost zero trust in their pupils.

You can't have soda in the hallways because you might spill it. I was 17 years old and, by that point in my life, felt I could handle not spilling a soda. If I did spill my soda, I sure as hell was old enough to know how to clean up after myself.

No wonder students are so eager to leave such an environment they sometimes resort to dropping out.

Trust is essential to life rolling smoothly.

Frank Crane once said, "You may be deceived if you trust too much, but you will live in torment if you don't trust enough."

In other words, it's something we've got to live with. Often all a person really has to go on in his life is trust.

I've had bosses who trusted me with certain responsibilities and just knowing that makes me work harder and strive to complete the task accordingly.

Relationships are the same way.

When you meet someone, or even if you've known them a while, you're basically dealing with a blank slate. If you automatically paint a picture of guilt and failure then you are going to be stuck with it.

In my opinion, a person who doesn't trust in anyone truly doesn't trust in himself.

All I can say is that it's a sad way to live to go through life never trusting anyone, never taking anyone's word.

So, to the bosses out there who think you can scam your workers into being "perfect" all because you're sitting around monitoring them via camera, you've got another thing coming.

To those of you in a relationship who have no trust for your partner: Give up now.

To you principals and teachers and superintendents who don't trust your students: Expect poor attitudes and diminished performance.

Remember, as D. Elton Trueblood said, "Faith is not belief without proof, but trust without reservation."

Julian Russell is a junior communication studies major and can be reached at 581-7942 or DENopinions@gmail.com.

THE DAILY
EASTERN NEWS
"Tell the truth and don't be afraid"

DAILY EDITORIAL
The daily editorial is the majority opinion of the editorial board of The Daily Eastern News.

Medical-marijuana would heal more than one pain in Illinois

The debate has raged for decades. From the outrageous outcry from the '60s protest-laden, free-love generation to the current back and forth between warring factions of the medical community, the legalization of medical marijuana has become an issue beaten to death but still will not die.

Made illegal on the national level by the Marijuana Tax Act of 1937, some have argued the law was the work of lobbyists for logging companies fearing the supposedly cheaper and more efficient material source posed by the production of hemp, a byproduct of the marijuana plant.

However, the wording and testimonies of legislators at the time sounded more like a page of dialogue from the largely exaggerated film "Reefer Madness," which was released the very same year marijuana was outlawed.

Today 14 states have passed laws legalizing the use of marijuana for medicinal purposes. And some states' economies could end up reaping the benefits.

So, the question cannot be ignored: With an economy in dire straits and a populous dominated by the uninsured, should marijuana be legalized in Illinois in hopes of delivering a double-whammy of benefits?

Illinois should strongly consider the move that so many other states have made and realize the massive benefit it could offer those in medical need and a state in economic need.

According to MedicalMarijuana.net, a group that conducts studies in pain management, medical marijuana, while posing a threat of lung and brain damage over long-term use, can offer effective pain relief to those who suffer from arthritis, cancer and chemotherapy treatment, chronic pain, fibromyalgia, glaucoma and multiple sclerosis when used over the course of six to 12 months.

In an article in the March 13, 2009 issue of *Time*, it was stated that California Democratic state assemblyman Tom Ammiano had introduced a bill that would legalize marijuana outright. The bill will be voted upon by California residents this coming November.

While this could understandably cause many to raise a collective eyebrow, the article stated that California state

“Illinois should strongly consider the move that so many other states have made and realize the massive benefit it could offer those in medical need and a state in economic need.”

tax collectors estimated the bill would bring in an additional \$1.3 billion in revenue.

"Currently, \$200 million in medical marijuana sales are subject to sales tax," the article said.

Imagine the amount of revenue \$14 billion in sales could generate for a state in desperate need of funds. The proposed bill would also give California control of marijuana similar to that of alcohol and would prohibit its purchase by anyone younger than 21.

The rest of the states that have legalized include Alaska, Colorado, Hawaii, Maine, Michigan, Montana, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont and Washington.

And all states, with the exception of Maine, Washington and New Jersey sell a required ID card and all 14 of those states have limits placed on the amount of cured, usable marijuana and plants one may possess at any one time.

It is clear that these 14 states have determined that the benefits of medical marijuana and need of their citizens outweighs the complaints and rebuttals heard from detractors. And they have done such while still ensuring a reasonable level of control and regulation.

All of this brings us back home. Illinois's economy is virtually circling the drain. The state is behind on payments to state schools across the board and many other programs are in danger if the situation doesn't improve.

According to FamilyUSA.org, in 2006, more than 1.1 million Illinoisans between the ages of 24 and 65 did not have any health coverage. The Web site also said those numbers have risen over the past four years.

The fact is, our state's citizens are lacking coverage and medical marijuana could provide a viable and more affordable alternative to pain management. Our state's pocket book is in equal pain and the legalization of medical marijuana could bring in tens of millions of dollars, if not more.

We are no longer a nation that fears "Reefer Madness," and we, as a state, should make every step possible to aid our citizens in need and provide relief to our economy that is in enough pain that it might need to use medical marijuana just as much as an arthritic Illinoisan does.

FROM THE EASEL



ILLUSTRATION BY DARIUS JUTZI | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

FROM AROUND THE STATE

It just makes sense to fill out your census

By Alyssa Pracz
The Northern Star
Northern Illinois University

The purpose of the census is to gather information from all the citizens across the United States, however, this is difficult when not everyone completes his or her census.

A lot of people don't understand the importance of the census and why it is necessary. People are either too lazy to complete it or don't care, and this affects both the re-

sults of the census and taxpayers' money.

Started by Thomas Jefferson, the census has been in effect for the past 240 years, according to the census Web site. Dan Miller, manager of the Local Census Office, Number 2528, 303 N. Main St., Rockford, said that each year the rate of return is improving little by little. The last census in 2000 had a mail return rate of 72 percent and increased 5 percent from the previous census mail return rate

in 1990.

Seventy-two percent is good but not good enough. There are still too many people that either don't send in their census or don't answer the door when enumerators come. It is not a process that requires skill or much time, so it is inexcusable that it can't be completed.

"It's really easy to answer the questions, and it's only 10 questions that takes 10 minutes," Miller said.

If you think you're getting out

of not having to fill one out by not mailing it back or avoiding answering your door, you're wrong. Enumerators will start coming to your door or calling your house six, seven, however many times it takes until you complete the form in order to get accurate results. So instead of dealing with them over and over again until you're annoyed, just get it out of your way and fill it out.

To read more, visit www.NorthernStar.com

CHARLESTON | EDUCATION

School district prepares for major cuts

By Kayleigh Zyskowski
City Editor

The Charleston High School swim team will not be eliminated from the school's programs; however, the team will approach the 2010-2011 season with a volunteer coaching staff after the school board eliminated the paid position during Wednesday's meeting.

The swim team coach is just one of the multiple extra-curricular activities positions that were eliminated from the district's payroll as part of Superintendent Jim Littleford's suggestions for educational reductions. All of Littleford's recommendations were passed by the board and are projected to save the Charleston School District nearly \$52,000.

Michael Bower, a member of Eastern's swim team spoke as a former member of the Charleston High School swim team. Nine former and current members of the team stood behind Bower as he spoke.

"All extra-curricular activities are important, swimming is not the most important, except by choice," Bower said. "However, it is at par with the other activities and should be treated as such."

The volunteer coaches must go through the same training and classes as hired coaches if they are not already teachers within the school district, said Liz Watson, the Charleston High School athletic director.

However, members of the school board had reservations about a completely volunteer coaching staff for a varsity sport, including Ron Miller, the board of education president.

"Everyone should be aware that there will be issues coming up," Ron Miller said. "Everyone who coaches has the kids in their hearts, however there is different sense of coaching between the members of the (school) board and the parents who will volunteer."

Jeff Coon, the board of education treasurer, also expressed concern about the idea of a fully volunteer staff; however, Kelly Miller, the board of education secretary, said the year would be a trial that is worth the cost.

"We could eliminate the activity all together or we can try this for one year and see where we are then," Kelly Miller said.

Other positions the school voted to be held by volunteers for the 2010-2011 school year are the Jefferson Middle School fifth and sixth grade girls' and boys' basketball coaches, the Jefferson Middle School cheerleading coach and the Carl Sandburg School and the Jefferson Middle School student council sponsors. By replacing these positions with volunteers, the school district will save a total of \$14,603.

In addition to replacing these paid positions, the school board voted to eliminate four extra-curricular positions, including one of the high school's assistant football coaches, the high school's assistant cheerleading coach and the high school's assistant speech coach. One of the high school's cross country coach's will also be eliminated, forcing a single person to coach the boys' and girls' teams.

These cuts will eliminate an additional \$9,529 from the district's budget for the 2010-11 school year. Also,

Charleston Unit School District #1 Positions to be eliminated:

Extra-curricular positions to be eliminated so volunteers may be utilized

Jefferson Middle School Boys and Girls fifth grade and sixth Basketball Coaches – **\$6,094**
Jefferson Middle School cheerleading coach – **\$5,446**
Carl Sandburg School and Jefferson Middle school Student Council Sponsors – **\$2,043**
Total – **\$14,603**

Summer School Admin – **\$4,500**
Carl Sandburg School and Jefferson Middle School Head Teacher Positions – **\$1,102**
Total – **\$5,602**

Extra-curricular positions not to be rehired

Charleston High School football 2nd assistant coach – **\$3,063**
Charleston High School cheerleading assistant coach – **\$1,700**
Charleston High School speech assistant coach – **\$2,043**
Total – **\$6,806**

Charleston High School cross country coach for a single coach to coach the boys and girls squads – **\$2,723**

Reduction of varsity extra-curricular contests

15 percent reduction of varsity contests (excluding football) – **\$10,148**

Increasing extra-curricular revenues

Double activity participation fees – **\$12,105**
Trojan Booster Club Assistance – **unknown**

Total projected savings: \$51,987

the board voted for a 15 percent over all reduction in the Charleston High School contests, saving the school district \$10,148.

The 15 percent will not include the football schedule because the schedule will not allow a cut in games with the Illinois High School Association's playoff regulations. Finally, the board eliminated the summer school administration positions and the Carl Sandburg School and the Jefferson Middle School head teacher positions for the summer.

Summer school programming was eliminated from the school district's budget during a previous meeting.

Not all items passed by the school board Wednesday night were cuts. The board also approved two sources

of revenue that include doubling the activity participation fee and asking the Trojan Booster Club for assistance.

In the second portion of Littleford's recommendations, he gave a long-range plan of action to be amended once the state's budget is sorted out this summer. Within the plan, Littleford cited four options the school board may be facing in the future.

"With this, nothing is set in stone," Littleford said. "Things can be tweaked depending on the Illinois budget and the distribution of the categorical funds."

The options were given with the assumption that the high school will remain in the Apollo Conference for sporting events.

"In order to stay in the conference we must offer football, volleyball, boys and girls basketball, baseball and softball," Littleford said.

Every option would eliminate a certain amount of extra-curricular activities and would use the Trojan Booster Club to fund where possible.

No official action was taken on this item and will be addressed at a later time, once the state's budget is given.

"Keep in mind, if the \$2 million recommendation stays intact, these reductions will be just a drop in the bucket but it's a reserve we may be able to tap into if needed," Littleford said.

Kayleigh Zyskowski can be reached at 581-7942 or kzyskowski@etu.edu.

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DOUDNA FINE ARTS CENTER

Speaker's talk addresses theme of economic justice

BlackLight Project leads to performances, work within Detroit

By Heather Holm
Activities Editor

The Headscarf Protest sparked a project speaker Aimee Cox spoke about Wednesday.

Cox gave a speech titled "Women of Color: Redefining the Political through Creative Activism."

Cox talked about how a project to give voice to those in a homeless shelter she worked at became the BlackLight Project.

The BlackLight Project was started at the Fresh Start Shelter in Detroit from residents who used dance, spoken word along with performance and other types of art to get out their frustrations.

The project also started because workers at the shelter organized the Headscarf Protest.

Staff workers were told they could not wear headscarves because they made the workers look "ghetto" and unprofessional. Staff members protested by refusing to go on shelter job searches and attend education meetings.

The project led to performances and work within the community of Detroit.

Cox also discussed her work with "The Body and the City: Black Women in Newark Redefine Public Space," which is a project where young girls interview older women in Newark.

Monica Barra, a graduate student at Rutgers University, works in Newark as part of the BlackLight and the Body and the City project and was present at the speech.

"I've been conducting interviews and facilitating discussions and workshops with the girls [through BlackLight] and teach them to talk amongst

themselves to find ways to address problems in their personal and public lives," Barra said.

Barra also works with the Body and the City Project interviewing older women in Newark.

LaToddra Butler, also present at the speech, works with the BlackLight Project in Detroit.

She wants to do a similar project to the Body and the City Project in Detroit.

"The spaces in Newark and the spaces in Detroit are similar," Butler said.

Cox wanted people at the speech to get a different view on race and to think different about where power is located in communities and hoped "The Body and the City Project" would get community members to change how they act and view society.

Heather Holm can be reached at 581-7942 or at haholm2@eiu.edu.



AUDREY SAWYER | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Aimee Cox, a professor of African American and diaspora studies at Rutgers University, speaks about her work dealing with women of color in low-income urban communities during Wednesday's Women's History Awareness Month keynote lecture in the Grand Ball Room in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

STATE

Celtic Crossroads, an Irish music phenomena

By Ashley Holstrom
Staff Reporter

The Celtic Crossroads members have spread their passion for music far beyond Irish pubs—they are now on to the rest of the world.

Celtic Crossroads makes its way to Eastern at 7:30 p.m. today in Dvorak Concert Hall of Doudna Fine Arts Center for a late St. Patrick's Day concert.

The group combines traditional Celtic music and dance with bluegrass, gypsy and jazz.

Dan Crews, Doudna arrangements supervisor, wanted Celtic Crossroads to perform at Eastern because of its superior musicianship and artistry.

"Celtic music is a genre that appeals to a lot of people, both those on campus and from the surrounding communities," Crews said. "It is generational music, which means that it appeals to those young and old. The music is exciting with a contemporary feel."

Critics have hailed Celtic Crossroads concerts as some of the most exhilarating and authentic shows to

come from Ireland in decades, Crews said.

The name, Celtic Crossroads, comes from a time in Ireland when neighboring communities would meet at the crossroads of towns to socialize, according to their Web site.

Kevin Crosby, a producer of the group, formed EMK productions with his brother, Eamon, and Michael McClintock in 2005 and began auditioning musicians from around the world to play traditional Irish music.

"We got the best of the best from Ireland. It is a world-class show, with

all the bells and whistles and stars of traditional Irish music," Crosby said.

Crosby said he wants people to see music the same way that they do in his home of Galway, Ireland.

There, musicians will bring one instrument with them and pass it around throughout the night so that by the end, everyone has played more than 20 instruments and perfected them, Crosby said.

"There is a lot more energy to Celtic music that is not being shown in theater shows," Crosby said.

The seven-member group tours for

nine months every year and has consisted of the same people since the beginning, with the exception of two people.

Admission to the concert is \$15; \$12 for seniors and Eastern employees; \$7 for students. Seating is reserved.

"We are extremely fortunate to present them. The show itself should be absolutely awesome," Crews said.

Ashley Holstrom can be reached at 581-7942 or alholstrom@eiu.edu.

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FIRE, from page 1

Widdersheim was not home. Instead, he was at a driving range for a golf class.

Widdersheim said he received a call from Walsh during class but did not answer, and when he saw that Walsh left him a voicemail he began to think that something might have been out of the ordinary.

Shortly after, Widdersheim said he received another call from a friend and became even more concerned.

"I thought they were playing a joke on me or something," he said.

After class was dismissed, Widdersheim said he immediately returned the most recent missed call—that was when he learned of the fire.

Widdersheim said by the time he arrived at the scene the fire had been contained.

After the fire had subsided, the residents were allowed back into the house to recover some possessions.

Walsh said he and Storm were able to salvage most of their property, but that the majority of it suffered smoke damage.

Widdersheim was not as lucky as his roommates. His bedroom was located very near to where the fire had started and the fire had destroyed his bed. He said he was able to recover

approximately 50 percent of his wardrobe, and that he grabbed his Xbox 360, computer and iPod, but that he does not expect them to work because of water damage resulting from the effort to extinguish the fire.

Widdersheim said he also lost three textbooks.

Walsh and Widdersheim said they expect their damaged property to be covered under their parent's homeowner's insurance. Storm was covered under renter's insurance.

Goodwin provided an estimate of \$20,000 in damages to the house's contents.

Walsh said he spent the day at his parent's house in Effingham, but he plans to return to campus Thursday to attend classes.

He said he will stay with friends for the week, but he is currently looking for a place to live for the remainder of the semester.

Widdersheim said he will complete the remainder of the spring semester from his parent's home in Strasburg, approximately 20 minutes from the Lake Land campus.

Jason Hardimon can be reached at 581-7942 or jrharden2@eiu.edu.



CHELSEA GRADY | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Members of the student government listen to President Bill Perry during Wednesday's meeting in the Tuscola/Arcola Room of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union. Perry had a slideshow presentation on the proposed fee increase as a means of funding for the science department buildings.

GOVERNMENT, from page 1

In the fall, the fee would be increased to \$37.50 per student and gradually increase over 10 years to \$300.

In the first four years of the increase, \$7.5 million would be raised, and the ultimate goal over 20 years would be \$30 million.

Funds are also expected from philanthropy donations and federal funding.

Perry is working closely with the student advisory board to make plans for the upcoming renovations.

Designs for the remodeling will potentially be made into models, which will then be showcased around Eastern's campus.

Keeping up with the "green" image, Perry said he plans to use materials for the renovation that have been recycled.

After renovation costs are met, there is no set plan as to how the increased fee will be dealt with.

Perry mentioned that it might be kept, but decreased slightly to maintain funding of the up-keep of university buildings.

There is currently no date set to begin the construction; however, the renovations will be planned so there is not much disruption of that current school term.

Along with Perry's presentation, the Conference on Student Government Association delegates addressed the senate with ideas they brought back from the conference.

Not only were ways to improve the student senate as a whole discussed, but delegates also discussed programs to introduce to the university as a whole to better the campus.

There are more presentations planned in the future, including a presentation by Mark Olendzki, vice-president of student affairs, and Rachel Fisher, student community service interim director, regarding Panther Service Day.

Two new resolutions were introduced to the student senate. One was a request for reimbursement for those who attended COSGA. The other was a request of funding for transportation and housing for two student representatives to attend the upcoming Illinois Board of Higher Education Student Advisory Committee meeting.

Funds in the amount of \$260 were approved for the spring student government inauguration ceremony.

Jenna Mitchell can be reached at 581-7942 or jlmitchell@eiu.edu.

ACCIDENT, from page 1

Mary Jo Fitzjarrald, Alex's mother, said he had no drugs or alcohol in his system at the time.

The report called Fitzjarrald a suicidal pedestrian.

Mary Jo said her son had no memory of what happened that night, and the police reports stating he was suicidal were wrong.

She said he has no history of depres-

sion or being on prescription medication.

"He's home," she said. "He's doing fine and he's going to be OK."

Fitzjarrald suffered a fractured skull, broken nose, bruised shoulders and a fractured pelvis from the accident.

Heather Holm can be reached at 581-7942 or haholm@eiu.edu.

FUNDING, from page 1

payroll figures to request federal reimbursement.

"The (positive time reporting) people only amount to about \$400-\$450,000 per pay period," McCann said. "We requested reimbursement for these people from the state, but the state hasn't paid us at this point, so we're pulling them out of the appropriated and putting them into the

stimulus and backdating all that information so we can get our stimulus money."

The employees being moved around for the stimulus funds are largely concentrated in maintenance and facilities.

"They're never going to see a difference; it's solely going to be a book-keeping adjustment that we make,"

McCann said. "It would have been much easier if they would have told us all of this back at the time. It's just a mess right now, and it's a lot of paperwork that we're going to have to accomplish in order to get that money pulled down."

Sarah Ruholl can be reached at 581-7942 or seruholl2@eiu.edu.

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No. 0218

ACROSS

1 Start in literature

5 Alpine feature

10 Stretch

14 Go into a new mode

16 Leer at

17 Almost grad's "disease"

18 Have ____

19 "Table for ____?"

20 Bunny photo

21 Who wrote "Hell is full of musical amateurs"

22 One in chains, maybe

25 Like some promises

28 Cornwall feature

29 Bushed

30 Unconcerned with scruples

34 Title twin brother of 15-Down

37 1983's highest-grossing film

40 Alternative to a day at the races?: Abbr.

41 Northeastern toll road convenience

42 Poetic times

43 Morales in Hollywood

45 Second-guessers' words

46 Bossy sort

DOWN

1 ____ prof.

2 Consider, with "on"

3 Ex-Yankee Martinez

4 Elvis Presley's "____ Can Dream"

5 U.S.D.A. part: Abbr.

6 Isabel, por ejemplo

7 Avidly accept

8 Rubbish

9 Quaint occupational suffix

10 Such that one might

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

S	P	A	R	E		B	O	A	S	T		F	T	D	
T	A	L	O	N		A	D	L	I	B		A	R	E	
A	G	O	O	D		D	E	L	T	A		N	E	V	
L	O	N	D	O	N	B	R	O	I	L		T	A	I	
A	D	Z		R	E	L		U	N	L	O	A	D	S	
G	A	O		T	O	U	T		I	S	L	A			
				C	U	T	O	N		D	A	N	I	E	L
				B	A	K	E	D		A	L	A	S	K	A
N	E	A	R	E	D					M	O	N	K	S	
E	C	H	O			B	I	N	G			T	O	W	
A	L	A	M	O	D	E		G	I	L		O	N	A	
T	I	M		R	O	A	S	T	T	U	R	K	E	Y	
E	P	I		A	R	T	O	O		N	O	L	A	N	
N	S	A		M	I	L	A	N		A	P	A	C	E	
S	E	N		A	C	E	R	S		R	E	S	T	S	

PUZZLE BY CALEB MADISON

11 Like the movies "10,000 B.C." and "2012"

12 Handle

13 Food box abbr.

15 Title twin sister in a series of children's books by Jean and Gareth Adamson

22 Words from the betrayed

23 Asian nannies

24 King Henry V, e.g.

25 River through Logroño and Aragon

26 Have an engagement (with)

27 Singer with the second video ever played on MTV

30 W.W. II battleground

31 Challenge for a hairstylist

32 U.S. ____

33 Some linemen: Abbr.

35 "____ idea!"

36 Spray setting

38 Full moon view?

39 Steve Martin comedy, with "The"

44 Bond girl Jill

45 Like some straw

46 Perfume

47 Nebraska tribe

48 Treatment for Parkinson's

49 Times and others

50 Fix, as a knot

51 These, to Julio

54 "____ Have" (#1 Jennifer Lopez hit)

55 ____ Little, "The Wire" antihero

56 PC things, which can be found at the starts of 14-, 22-, 37-, 48- and 81-Across

58 "Recipient" of a Bugs Bunny question

59 Wax things, for short

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OPENER, from page 12

May pitched eight innings as the game was tied at three-all after seven innings. She struck out eight, while only walking one batter and threw 130 pitches. The first game's beginning four innings had all runs but the final one scored in those frames.

"The first three innings were a little shaky for (Amber)," Schuette said. "She wasn't throwing very hard and she let a tight zone get in her head."

After a great pop-out double play to end the top of the fifth, started by senior shortstop Megan Nelson, May buckled down into a groove retiring the next nine batters to shutout the Jaguars and clinch the game.

"The offense helped pick it up for

her and she started throwing in about the fourth or fifth inning," Schuette said. "She was throwing much better, harder, and more aggressive, which we like."

The late game shutout for the Panthers came from their defense, according to Schuette.

Senior center fielder Angie Danca made a couple crucial outfield plays, making one diving catch in front of her and nabbing a warning track long ball.

"Most of all, I liked our defense," Schuette said. "We had some great catches in the outfield."

Danca went 3-for-7 hitting, but her three hits were all bunt singles.

The center fielder also stole a base in the first game, her third this season.

While the doubleheader saw an all-around effort for two Panther wins, Holtz was clearly the star of the night.

"(Holtz) is a quiet kid, but people listen when she talks," Schuette said. "She doesn't need to say much right now; the smile says it all."

Eastern (10-11) will pick up where they left off on Williams Field today against Southern Illinois – Edwardsville at 4 p.m.

Alex McNamee can be reached at 581-7944 or admcnamee@eiu.edu.

COMICS

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE BY STEPHAN PASTIS



GET FUZZY BY DARBY CONLEY



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Campus clips

Math Energy is having a general meeting on Monday March 29th at 7 p.m. in the University Ballroom in the Union. Come around 6:30 to register, \$6 per semester, 8 open executive positions for Fall 2010.

The College of Education and Professional Studies is having an University Admission to Teacher Education Meeting on Thursday, March 25, 2010. The meeting is from 7-7:50 p.m. in 1501 Buzzard Hall Auditorium. Students must formally apply for University Admission to Teacher Education. This is done by attending a meeting. Students who have not previously applied must attend. Registration is not required.



AMIR PRELLBERG | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS
Junior Cara Huck returns a shot during her singles match Wednesday afternoon at Darling Courts. Huck defeated Tennessee Tech's No. 3 singles player, Frederike Kahl, in two sets, 6-2 and 6-4.

SHORT, from page 12

Wednesday at Darling Courts, as several Panthers had strong singles play.

Freshman Merritt Whitley, sophomore Juliana Frey and freshman Annie Egan all pulled out wins.

Blackburn had nothing but good things to say about his three singles winners.

"Juliana won in straight sets and played some of her best tennis of the year," Blackburn said. "Anne had a

really long grinding match. She had match points against her and found a way to pull it out."

The women will be back in action when they face off against conference rival Eastern Kentucky at 9 am. Saturday at Richmond, Ky.

Dane Urban can be reached at 581-7944 or dcurban@eiu.edu.



Top Cat

with Denée 'Mouth' Menzione, senior right fielder

'Mouth' full of personality, stats

Captain keeps teammates on edge

By Alex McNamee
Assistant Sports Editor

Denée 'Mouth' Menzione keeps the Eastern softball team loose prior to games. Mouth's pregame antics consist of telling jokes, laughing, dancing and cutting up. Mouth, a team captain, brings a special flair to her team aside from flashy stats and dependable fielding—she brings personality.

"I like to have a good time, have some fun and get some laughs going," Mouth said.

Every game, the senior right fielder has her own way of warming up, getting loose and getting amped up to play right field. If she prepared any differently, her teammates might be worried.

"That's her style of warming up," junior pitcher Amber May said. "If she's tense then she's not going to have a good game."

May is overjoyed to have Mouth as a team captain for the reason that Mouth likes to have fun and not take things so seriously.

Mouth is a unique softball player and a key ingredient to the 10-11 Panthers, as her personality can stand alone.

"She's one of those people. She has the name Denée' and nobody needs to know her last name because that's Denée'," head coach Kim Schuette said.

So to her teammates, coaches and friends, she's just Denée', or Mouth for some comments that come out of her facial feature.

"She says some dumb things, funny things, and keeps the team light," Schuette said. "We give her a hard time and she can dish it out and take it as well."

While the Panthers' leadoff hitter is all fun and games outside the lines of the softball diamond, she's all business inside — making her a scary hitter.

While Mouth is batting a team-



AMIR PRELLBERG | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Senior right fielder Denée 'Mouth' Menzione is known as a jokester on the softball team because of her unique pre-game attitude, which consists of telling jokes, laughing and dancing with teammates.

leading .405 with four home runs against Eastern opponents, some of her pitching teammates have seen her focus in the batter's box first hand.

Personally, May has felt the wrath of the powerful, fiery right fielder when pitching to her during practice.

For instance, one moment May remembers is when Mouth shot a ball straight up the middle, back at May's ankle in practice.

"It gets scary every time I'm up against her," May said, thankful to still have her ankles in good health.

What has May learned from her pitching experience against Mouth? Don't leave a ball down the middle, or prepare to pay for it.

"Looking at her when she's up in the box, the grin on her face and her eyes — she's one of those batters you don't want to face," May said.

Mouth hasn't been opposing pitchers favorite competition so far this season, tallying a .405 batting average and a .738 slugging percentage — nearly 200 percent more than any other Panther.

This weekend, in two wins over defending Ohio Valley Conference champions Jacksonville State, Mouth went 3-for-6 from the plate, hitting one home run, notching two RBIs and drawing two walks. For Mouth, her weekend stat line doesn't accomplish anything but putting in another good day on the diamond.

"That's my role," Mouth said. "I'm supposed to hit the long ball and get some RBIs for the team."

While the senior was playing good softball, she didn't realize she was staking her name into Eastern softball history books. Mouth's solo shot in the seventh inning against Jacksonville State, in the first game of a doubleheader Saturday, tied her first all-time among career home run leaders in Eastern softball history with 23 dingers.

"I had no idea I was even close to it," Mouth said. "It's something and you always work for that."

While Mouth said the record doesn't mean anything unless the team is winning, it seems there may

be more history for her to rewrite.

Last season, Mouth broke the single season records for most home runs (8), RBIs (40) and walks (27) in a season — 54 games total.

Through 18 games, Mouth has tallied four home runs, 10 RBIs and eight walks. If she keeps pace, she'll have 12 home runs, 30 RBIs, and 24 walks after 54 games.

That's assuming her pregame antics and her fierce attitude inside the batter's box don't strike her game up another notch.

Alex McNamee can be reached at 581-7944 or admcmnamee@eiu.edu.

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TRACK & FIELD | SPOTLIGHT

Decathlete doesn't quit, keeps going

Red-shirt senior's ultimate goal: Olympic Trials

By Kevin Murphy
Staff Reporter

Sean Hopkins doesn't quit. He's competitive. And sometimes for his own good, he doesn't know when to stop.

The red-shirt senior on the Eastern men's track and field team has an energy that never ends.

The force behind Hopkins' drive started when he was young and still continues as he tries to reach his ultimate goal: the Olympic Trials.

"I've always wanted to be at the trials," Hopkins said. "I've always had that goal to be at the trials."

To get there, it has been a long journey for Hopkins.

"I swear I was probably still in the crib, and dad was teaching me how to play catch," he said. "I was just a very active little kid. Even in school, I wanted to race everyone all the time."

His work ethic was prevalent even in high school.

"A lot of days I get out of bed and have a hard time walking to the shower because I'm so sore," Hopkins told the *Freeport Journal-Standard* in high school.

His effort in high school track and football translated to playing football and track at Illinois College, a Division III school, in Jacksonville.

Hopkins decided football would be not the best after he received a pass during his freshman year. The pass from the quarterback was a little too high. The end results — not the best landing.

"I jumped out for it and got laid out by two linebackers," he said. "I woke up in the training room with a concussion. All right, that's my time to stop. I decided I was going to stick with track."

Hopkins stayed with track and finished 17th nationally in 2008 in the decathlon, a series of 10 events which includes the following: the 100-meter dash, the long jump, the shot put, the high jump, the 400-meter dash, 110-meter high hurdles, the discus, the pole vault, the javelin and the 1,500-meter run.

In 2008, Hopkins also began to



AMIR PRELLBERG | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Red-shirt senior Sean Hopkins lifts weights before his workout on the track Wednesday afternoon in the Lantz athletic weight room.

look at Division I scores at the national championships. He knew the potential would be there to be competitive, but still wasn't sure what school he was going to compete.

Hopkins started looking at A and B Olympic Trial standards.

He said when looking at schools, former Eastern assistant coach JaRod Tobler, stood out. Tobler has been competing at different Olympic events and even competed at U.S. Olympic Trials in 2008.

After looking at Western Illinois, Southern Illinois-Edwardsville and Illinois, Hopkins e-mailed Eastern head coach Tom Akers about joining the track team.

"I was kind of nervous just to type the e-mail," Hopkins said. "I remember sitting there for hours saying, 'I want

this to sound professional'. I really don't know what to say. I was just on cloud nine when he e-mailed back."

Since transferring to Eastern from Illinois College, Hopkins red-shirted in 2009, but competed unattached and won the decathlon at both the Big Blue Classic at Eastern and North Central's Gregory Invite. Hopkins finished the Gregory Invite with 6,499 points and the Big Blue Classic with 6,173 points.

The decathlon is his main event, but he contributes in other areas. He took third in pole vault at the Ohio Valley Conference indoor championships. He also competes in the high jump and other areas as needed.

Hopkins doesn't care what event he competes in as long as he competing and helping out the team.

"I'm not the best sprinter," he said. "I'm not a specialist, but I'm above average in all of them. I want to be the best overall athlete."

Hopkins has loved the transition this season, especially with Eastern. Hopkins works with the pole vaulters, the hurdlers, the sprinters and about every different group within the track team.

"I think I can compete with some of these guys right now," he said. "I think I can be that kind of athlete. I've never seen more work ethic out of a team. I really like that. It gets me going. Ever since then, I've loved (the track experience)."

Hopkins said his best time at Eastern were the talks with Tobler, who helped him organize his thoughts and Olympic Trial goals.

"I'm real close to it," he said.

The qualifying standards are this: 7,900 points for the "A" standard and 7,600 points for the "B" standard back in 2008 for the U.S. Olympic Trials. For the U.S. Outdoor Championships in 2010, those standards change: 7,850 points for the "A" standard and 7,500 points for the "B" standard.

"He's just a multi-talented athlete," Akers said. "The potential is there. He's a vocal kid."

Hopkins plans to compete in the decathlon at least at four different meets this season, and then help the rest of the team in other events such as the high jump, the long jump and the pole vault, especially in the OVC championships.


Kevin Murphy can be reached at 581-7944 or kjmurphy@eiu.edu.

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3:50 6:40 FRI SAT 9:20 SAT SUN 1:10
SHE'S OUT OF MY LEAGUE (R)
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VIEWS



Dane Urban

Tennis torched once again

Panther tennis seems to be in a slump going into conference play, as the men sit with a record of 3-10 and the women at 4-7.

Both squads have seen Ohio Valley Conference play last week as they both faced off against Tennessee Tech.

It was a tale of two teams that day as conference opponents swept the men 0-6, and the women grinded one out winning 4-3.

After beating Tennessee Tech in a close match with strong doubles play, it looked like the women were going to turn it around and ride that wave of momentum.

However, the women were unable to continue their hot streak, and the UT Martin Skyhawks extinguished them Wednesday, dropping them to an even 1-1 OVC.

The women's doubles play has been strong of late but had a flat performance Wednesday.

Head coach John Blackburn was disappointed with his team's doubles, in which he chastised his team for dropping the opening doubles match-ups to begin the match in a hole.

"We played pretty poorly in doubles," Blackburn said. "We have to play better than that in conference play. We have good doubles players here."

On the men's side of the court, the season has been a disappointment, with only three wins and a seven match-losing streak.

They opened the start of the OVC play in the worst way by losing to Tennessee Tech 6-0.

However, there were individual highlights throughout the year for the Panthers.

The Panthers have seen strong play from senior Jeff Rutherford and freshman Justin Haag.

Rutherford has been playing better than his record indicates, having to play the opponent's No. 1 player every match.

Haag has been a welcome surprise as well, as his eight singles wins leads the team.

Strong conference play can turn a bad season into a great one, and Panthers tennis has the opportunity to do exactly that.

But both squads have to start matches strong and continue to finish them, or it will be another long season on the courts.

Dane Urban can be reached at 581-7944 or dcdurban@eiu.edu.

SOFTBALL | EASTERN



AMIR PRELLBERG | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Freshman infielder Melise Brown steals second base during the second inning against IUPUI Wednesday afternoon at Williams Field. Brown went 1 for 2 and two RBIs against the Jaguars.

Holtz stars in home opener

Team sweeps home doubleheader

By Alex McNamee
Assistant Sports Editor

Wednesday's doubleheader between Eastern softball and Indiana Purdue – Indianapolis treated junior third base Kiley Holtz well, as the Panthers took both games at Williams Field 4-3 and 5-1, respectively.

Holtz was on fire from the plate, responsible for seven of the Panthers' nine runs combined from the two games.

The junior was 5-for-6 with two home runs, six RBIs and two runs scored. Holtz's two home runs came in back-to-back innings during the second game, in the second and third innings.

"It was one of those days. It seemed like everything was going my way. You have those games every once in a while. It was just my day I guess."

Kiley Holtz, junior third base

Holtz's two blasts over the left field fence ended a slump she's been dying to get out of, following a 1-for-6 performance in the Panthers' two games against Jacksonville State this weekend.

"It was amazing and was definitely needed since I've been in a slump lately," Holtz said. "So it was good to break out of it and have a good

game."

After the Jaguars (4-18) had left two runners on base in the top of the second inning, Holtz stepped up as the first batter in the bottom half of the inning and blasted a solo homer.

Following a walk putting junior first baseman Melinda Jackson on first base, Holtz blasted a two-run homer,

setting Eastern up 4-0.

"It was one of those days," Holtz said. "It seemed like everything was going my way. You have those games every once in a while. It was just my day I guess."

Eastern freshman pitcher Natalie Wunderlich pitched a complete game in the second game of the doubleheader, holding the Jaguars to one run and striking out two.

"Natalie did a good job of keeping the ball down and letting her zip go and letting the defense work," Eastern head coach Kim Schuette said.

Wunderlich pitched well, following a great performance from junior pitcher Amber May in the first game.

"I thought they did excellent," Holtz said. "I think we had a really good performance out of both pitchers."

OPENER, page 9

WOMEN'S TENNIS

Women's team comes up short to Skyhawks

By Dane Urban
Staff Reporter

The Panthers tennis squad came up short yesterday when the women dropped a conference match to the UT Martin Skyhawks, 6-3.

The women now sit with a .500 Ohio Valley Conference record at 1-1 and now 4-7 on the overall season.

UT Martin improves its season to 5-3 overall and a 2-0 OVC mark.

Head coach John Blackburn was disappointed with the result, but tipped

his hat to the Skyhawks' game plan.

"We have to give them (UT Martin) some credit," Blackburn said. "They had a game plan, and we let it bring us down."

The Panthers came out of the gate slow and lost all three doubles matches to the Skyhawks.

"We really dug ourselves into a disappointing hole in the doubles matches," Blackburn said. "We really didn't stay resolved in what we needed to do and kind of let things snowball out of control."

"We really dug ourselves into a disappointing hole in the doubles matches."

John Blackburn, tennis head coach

The Eastern squad prides itself with its strong doubles play and the athletes know they will have to perform better.

"We take a lot of pride in our doubles," Blackburn said. "We have a

good unit of people who can play good doubles. We just have to be more resolute in sticking to our plan."

It was not all doom and gloom

SHORT, page 9

EASTERN SPORTS SCHEDULE

Softball
Today vs. SIU-Edwardsville
4 p.m. – Williams Field

Women's golf
Saturday at Southern Illinois
All day – Hickory Ridge Golf Course

Baseball
Saturday at Eastern Kentucky
12 p.m. – Richmond, Ky.

Softball
Saturday vs Tennessee Tech
1 p.m. – Williams Field

Women's tennis
Sunday at Morehead State
11 a.m. – Morehead, Ky.

For more please see eiupanthers.com

NATIONAL SPORTS

NBA
Heat at Bulls
7 p.m. on TNT

NHL
Kings at Blues
7 p.m. on FSM

MLS
Union at Sounders
8:30 p.m. on ESPN2

NBA
Mavericks at Trailblazers
9:30 p.m. on TNT

MLB
Mets at Cardinals
10 p.m. on FSM